

J.D. Patton and Dupont Team Up to Provide Paint Mixing Update Classes

Dupont donates \$11,000 in supplies and equipment

DTE Area Technology Centers (ATC) have long enjoyed good relationships with the communities in which they are located. In that tradition, J.D. Patton ATC has brokered an agreement with the Dupont Company that will not only benefit its students, but also people from all over the Northern Ky. area.

Through the efforts of Auto Body Repair Instructor Jim Wietholter, former Principal Mike Cassidy and Dupont Operations Analyst Bob Dance, the school now provides update training classes in paint mixing for various auto body repair needs.

The training is designed to help area auto body repair professionals further their training in the field and gain knowledge of new products being introduced into the market. It also allows those participants to come together in a non-competitive arena to better their craft.



Pictured above from left: Dupont's Bob Dance, ABR Instructor Jim Wietholter and former Principal Mike Cassidy

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**Auto Body
Repair Instructor
Jim Wietholter**



Jim Wietholter and Bob Dance look over a car before it is painted.

Dupont's relationship with the school has been established for some time, even though this update training project has only been underway for the past several months. About ten years ago, Dupont donated a mixing bank that is used for the electronic measuring, weighing and mixing of paint tints. Now, through this training partnership, computer equipment has been furnished along with an array of tints used to make the actual automotive paint. The ATC has purchased pearl tint, which is used in everyday operations of the class. The ATC also pays a monthly fee to access the Dupont software via their web site, which provides all the technical data used in mixing procedures.

“We feel this is a win-win situation for our students as well as those in the industry that live in this area,” said Wietholter. “We can take advantage of the program directly from our classroom with everything being on site.”

“This really was a ‘no-brainer’ for us. It’s a small price to pay for all the information and material available to us through this agreement,” said Cassidy. “The computer and software aspects of the program are worth much more than we have invested.”

“This creates awareness of our facility in the community and it really becomes an invaluable partnership with Dupont,” says Wietholter.

“The whole idea of this program is to better the industry while putting these students on the cutting edge of the most technological advances available,” said Dance. “Dupont has created every color being used in the automotive industry today. Our exclusive computer program helps to insure quality control in paint matching, no matter the make or model of the automobile being repaired.”

With the assistance of a mobile mixing lab, Dance provides hands-on training and brings all the materials used for the after school update training sessions. Being a custom painter himself, Dance says, “a little shop talk usually breaks the ice and gets everyone involved.”

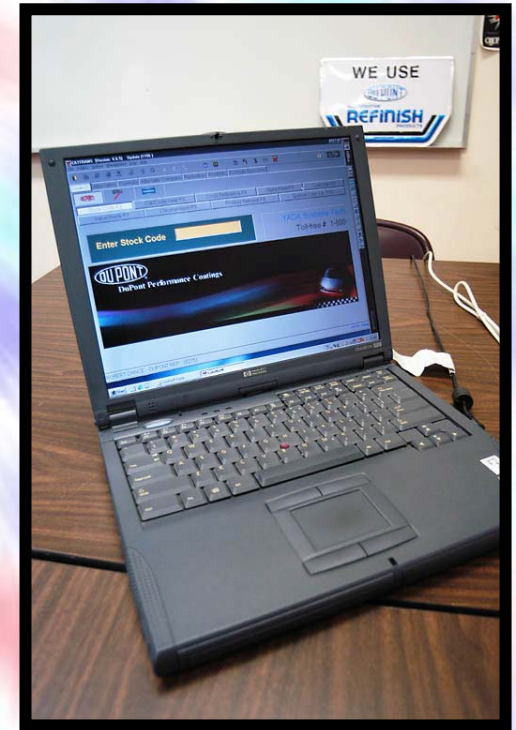
Any materials left over after an update training session are donated to the ATC which can add up to a sizeable monetary amount. Dupont has made approximately an \$11,000 investment in this program.

“We’re pleased to partner with Dupont in an effort to advance our students as well as the community around us.” said Wietholter.



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Pictured, top: Dupont software used in training program.
Bottom: Paint tints used for mixing.